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TO RUEHC/SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 9448  
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RUYNAAAC/COMNAVFORJAPAN YOKOSUKA JA PRIORITY  
RHHMUNA/HQ USPACOM HONOLULU HI PRIORITY  
RHHMHBA/COMPACFLT PEARL HARBOR HI//N541// PRIORITY  
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RUHBANB/OKINAWA FLD OFC US FORCES JAPAN CP BUTLER JA PRIORITY  
RHMFIUU/COMUSJAPAN YOKOTA AB JA PRIORITY  
INFO RUEHFK/AMCONSUL FUKUOKA 9358  
RUEHOK/AMCONSUL OSAKA KOBE 2801  
RUEHBJ/AMEMBASSY BEIJING 5333  
RUEHMO/AMEMBASSY MOSCOW 1450  
RUEHUL/AMEMBASSY SEOUL 1425  
RUCNDT/USMISSION USUN NEW YORK 2885  
RHEHAAA/NSC WASHDC

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STATE FOR I/RF, PA/PR/FPC/W, IIP/G/EA, EAP/PD, R/MR,  
EAP/J, EAP/P, PM;  
USTR FOR PUBLIC AFFAIRS OFFICE;  
TREASURY FOR OASIA/IMI;  
SECDEF FOR OASD/PA;  
CP BUTLER OKINAWA FOR AREA FIELD OFFICE;  
PACOM HONOLULU FOR PUBLIC DIPLOMACY ADVISOR

E.O. 12958: N/A

TAGS: [OIIP](#) [KMDR](#) [KPAO](#) [JA](#)

SUBJECT: MEDIA REACTION Q SOMALIA-ETHIOPIA TENSIONS AND  
EU EXPANSION - TOKYO

LEAD STORIES: All Thursday morning papers led with the  
resignation of Regulatory Reform Minister Sato over  
irregular accounting practices undertaken by his  
political organization throughout the 1990s.

[¶1](#). "Situation in Somalia Smacks of Proxy War" The liberal  
Asahi's New York correspondent wrote (12/28): "On the  
worsening situation in Somalia, there appear to be  
differing views within the UN Security Council over the  
council's role in dealing with a 'failed state,' with  
Arab and Islamic countries calling for a pullout of  
'foreign troops,' while Western powers are opposed in  
view of the war on terrorism. Countering the Ethiopian  
troops backing the provisional Somali government, Chechen  
and Pakistani guerrillas are supporting the rebel Union  
of Islamic Courts (UIC). As the UIC is said to have  
accepted troops from Eritrea, the situation in Somalia  
smacks of a larger proxy war."

[¶2](#). "EU Expansion over for the Time Being" The top-  
circulation, moderate-conservative Yomiuri's Brussels  
correspondent stated (12/28): "With the upcoming entry of  
Bulgaria and Romania on January 1, the EU will have 27  
members and a combined population of about 500 million  
people, extending all the way to the Black Sea. EU  
expansion, which has been an engine for European unity  
and stability, is likely to come to a halt for the time  
being, as discussions on Turkey's membership have  
stalled.... With Bulgaria and Romania becoming the  
poorest members of the organization, there is no doubt  
that economic disparities within the EU will further  
widen. There is also concern that the larger roster of  
members could make managing the organization more  
difficult, as the EU has adopted the principle of

unanimous consensus in making key decisions."

DONOVAN